

REMARKS

Claims 1, 23, 29, 34, 41, 47 and 67 are amended. Claims 33, 35, 51 and 72 are cancelled. Claims 1-13, 15-26, 28-32, 34, 38-50, 52-67, 69-71, 73-75, 110 and 111 remain in the application for consideration.

Claim 35 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 34, and claim 35 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 34 and 39 should now be indicated to be allowed, as claims 35 and 39 were previously rejected only for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, with the Examiner indicating that said claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such has been done hereinabove, allowance of claims 34 and 39 is requested.

Each of independent claims 1, 23, 29, 41, 47 and 67 have been amended to recite that the body comprises a plurality of openings spaced from the passageway and which extend through the insulative material. Each is further amended to recite load bearing plugs received within at least some of the openings in the thermally insulative material, with the load bearing plugs having greater compression strength than the thermally insulative material. Each is further amended to recite that at least some of the load bearing plugs comprise holes extending therethrough which are sized to receive mounting bolts, and that at least some of the load bearing plugs are entirely solid. Accordingly, the amended language is consistent with some of the amended language in allowable claim 34 as amended herein, with each claim as amended herein reciting its own respective combination of elements. The prior art of record does

not disclose or suggest the respective combination of elements in these independent claims, and such claims should be allowed. Action to that end is requested.

Included herewith is a declaration signed by inventor Kimberly R. Tschepen. The undersigned requests that such declaration be placed in the file history.

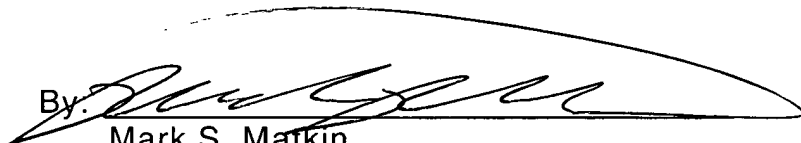
This application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

4/29/04

By: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark S. Matkin', written over a horizontal line.

Mark S. Matkin
Reg. No. 32,268